Erosion of tea garden in Assam

1639 SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea gardens in Assam are facing erosion caused by Brahamaputra river and its tributaries; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The problem of erosion caused by Brahmaputra river and its tributaries in Assam with attendant danger to tea estates is part of the much bigger problem affecting a sizeable territory in Assam and this is persisting for a long time. Following severe erosion in 1953, some protective measures were taken through construction of stone and timber spurs and dykes. Tea Board has taken up this matter with the Central Water Power Commission, Government of Assam and Brahamaputra Flood Control Commission.

Joint Patrolling on Indo-Pak border

1640. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan are considering a new move on joint patrolling of Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan had earlier rejected India's proposal in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the new proposal has been found acceptable to both the countries and by when an agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A decision for joint patrolling on Indo-Pak border was taken in a meeting held at New Delhi from 14th to 16th May 1988 between delegations led by the Interior Secretary of Pakistan and Home Secretary of Government of India. Several meetings have been held between officers of the BSF and the Pak Rangers to decide on the modalities of joint patrolling. The last such meeting was held on 6th February 1989 between DG BSF and DG Pak Rangers. Since no arrangement could be reached so far, the joint patrolling has not yet commenced.

Vacancies of Chief Enforcement Officers

1641. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of vacancies for the posts of Chief Enforcement Officers in the Directorate of Enforcement were recently raised from ten to fourteen to accommodate certain junior officers and that the selection norms for the posts were also overlooked in order to promote them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even though SC/ST officers were available for promotion as Chief Enforcement Officers in accordance with the allotted quota, their claims were overlooked; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the steps-taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Overhauling of the working of nationalised banks

1642. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have taken a number of measures to overhaul the working of the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, what are the broad details thereof; and

(c) whether the Board of Directors of the nationalised banks are also reconstituted and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The working of nationalised banks is kept under constant review and steps as appropriate to improve efficiency and productivity are taken by Government/Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

(c) At present there are no non-official directors on the Boards of any of the nationalised banks. The process of identification of suitable persons for appointment as non-official directors on the Boards of nationalised banks is nearing completion.

Export against rupee payment

1643. SHRI KAMAL MORAKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the country's total exports during 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) how much of such exports was against rupee payment and how much against hard currency;

(c) what was the import content in the rupee payment exports; and

(d) how much hard currency of the country was spent for achieving rupee payment exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The country's total exports during 1986-87 and 1987-88 (provisional) were Rs. 12452 crores and Rs. 15741 crores respectively. Out of these, India's exports to the Rupee Payment countries were Rs. 2230 crores during 1986-87 and Rs. 2451 crores during 1987-88. The exports to the Free Currency Areas were Rs. 10222 crores during 1986-87 and Rs. 13290 crores during 1987-88.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to estimate the import content in the rupee payment exports as well as the amount of hard currency spent for achieving the rupee payment exports.

Trade imbalances between India and Malaysia

1644. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the balance of trade position between India and Malaysia;

(b) what steps Government have taken to correct the trade imbalance, if any;

(c) what is the quantity and value of edible oils imported from Malaysia during the last five years; and

(d) what is the envisaged import of edible oils from Malaysia in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The